Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

FAA-00 /074 W

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1815

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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C O R R E C T E D COPY - TWO HEADINGS IN ORIGINAL TRANSMISSION

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, EAIR, WB, PL

SUBJ: POLISH INTEREST IN FLIGHTS TO WEST BERLIN?

1. FIRST SECRETARY WITOLD SEDZIWY OF POLISH MILITARY MISSION IN WEST BERLIN QUESTIONED SENAT CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL RECENTLY CONCERNING ARTICLE IN SEPT 1975 ISSUE OF "TOURIST AUSTRIA" REPORTING, ON BASIS OF WEST GERMAN SOURCES, THAT GDR HAD CHANGED ITS POSITION ON SUBJECT FLIGHTS TO AND FROM TEGEL AIRPORT IN WEST BERLIN (I.E., THAT IT WOULD NOW BE PREPARED TO GRANT OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS). SEDZIWY SAID THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO CONCEAL FACT THAT POLAND COULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN FLIGHTS FROM TEGEL BOTH TO CONFIDENTIAL

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WEST AND EAST; HE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE HEARING

SENAT POSITION ON THIS ARTICLE. CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL RESPONDED SIMPLY THAT HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH ARTICLE AND THAT AVIATION MATTERS INVOLVED COMPETENCE OF NUMBER OF DIFFERENT AUTHORITIES.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS TO OUR KNOWLEDGE FIRST, ALBEIT VAGUE, EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN NON-THREE POWER FLIGHTS TO WEST BERLIN ON PART OF SOVIET BLOC NATION -- WHICH WOULD NORMALLY BE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT SOVIET-GDR POLICY OF EXPANDING USE OF GDR'S SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT TO DETRIMENT OF TEGEL. IT MAY, OF COURSE, PROVE TO BE WITHOUT SUBSTANCE. NEVERTHELESS, SEDZIWY (NUMBER TWO IN POLISH MISSION) HAS LOCAL REPUTATION FOR BEING RELIABLE AND WELL-INFORMED AND WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HEARING WHETHER EMBASSY WARSAW HAS BY CHANCE PICKED UP ANY CORROBORATORY EVIDENCE OF POLISH INTEREST IN SUCH FLIGHTS.

3. WE ARE FRANKLY SKEPTICAL OF "TOURIST AUSTRIA'S" INFORMATION WHICH APPEARS TO BE A REPLAY OF LAST SUMMER'S ERRONEOUS REPORT THAT HONECKER HAD ALLEGEDLY TOLD VISITORS TO THE LEIPZIG FAIR FRG FLIGHTS TO TEGEL WERE POSSIBLE.GEORGE

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TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, EAIR, WB, PL
To: STATE WARSAW

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